

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

11/30/84 - TAA

File in Argentinian R

(CW 26)

TO : The Ambassador

DATE: 11-30-82

FROM: POL - John F. Keane

SUBJECT: Right of Option

REF: Your Request

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(☒) Release (☐) Excise (☐) Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: (☐) In Part (☐) In Full

(☐) Classify as (☐) Extend as (☐) Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

I spoke to Col. (R) Carlos Alberto Tepedino, Director General of Internal Security. The burden of his comments follows.

- In 1982, the GOA granted right of option to only one individual, who went to Sweden.
- As a result of a court ruling ordering PEN to release or grant right of option to an individual, they offered the detainee the right of option. (COMMENT: Evidently the authorities did not want to give him complete liberty in the country. END COMMENT.) The individual rejected right of option and the GOA released him.
- The above is not a normal practice. The GOA now prefers to grant prisoners parole rather than the right of option and it normally does not give them the choice.

I also spoke with Adela Garré, the Argentine employee in our Consular Section who handles PEN cases (Congressional interest, right of option, etc.). She explained that:

- Several hundred PEN prisoners requested right of option and US visas during 1977-80. Several score were granted and traveled to the U.S.
- During the last year, two individuals on parole requested the right of option to go to the U.S. The GOA denied both. Of the hundreds of other persons in parole status during the last two years, many of whom had requested visas when they were still detained, none others expressed an interest in going to the United States after they were



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granted parole. Almost all said they wanted to remain close to their families and prefer to live in their native country. Some of the least educated and humble expressed fear that they might be jailed again if they requested right of option.

cc:
DCM
POL:JAALLITTO

bk